



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of.

Satoshi EJIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2612

Application No.: 09/661,430

Examiner: K. Jerabek

Filed: September 13, 2000

Docket No.: 107323

For: ELECTRONIC STILL CAMERA

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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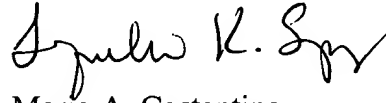
Sir:

In reply to the February 12, 2004, Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group VI, claims 16-18, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 12, 2004

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